A/AC.172/1993/CRP.14/Add.1
19 May 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES
Substantive session
Agenda item 12*

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Imre KARBUCZKY (Hungary)

Addendum

I. CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS
(continued)

C. Improved utilization of conference-servicing resources: meeting statistics of United Nations organs

Introduction and overview

1. Since 1983, the Committee on Conferences has studied a series of reports showing the meeting statistics of a number of United Nations organs in New York, Geneva and Vienna. At its substantive meetings held on 28 August 1990, the Committee agreed to put into experimental use a newly proposed methodology to run parallel with the existing methodology for the next three years.

2. At its 341st meeting, on 27 August 1992, the Committee, inter alia, requested the Secretariat to expand the representational sample of bodies included in future papers on the experimental methodology and to provide a historical perspective of the trends perceived in all future reports on the utilization of conference-servicing resources.

3. In view of its earlier decisions and the requests of the General Assembly contained in paragraphs 13 and 14 of resolution 47/202 A of 22 December 1992, the Committee reviewed two reports at its 348th meeting, on 18 May 1993: A/AC.172/88/Add.11, compiled in accordance with existing methodology, and A/AC.172/1993/CRP.4, compiled in accordance with the new methodology.

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* A/AC.172/150/Add.1.

Discussion

4. The view was expressed that, while the experimental methodology constituted a welcome improvement in assessing the utilization of conference resources, it should be further refined, inter alia, by including analysis and commentary, as well as capacity utilization figures.

5. It was suggested that the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences should hold consultations with the Chairmen of the bodies concerned and that the secretariat of the Committee should consult with the secretariats of those bodies in view of the continuity that they provided. While the collection of data on utilization was an interesting exercise in itself, the reason for doing so was to reverse the poor performance of under-utilizers and of those bodies that regularly failed to comply with the rules on the control, limitation and submission of documentation. It was suggested that a higher benchmark figure might be a stimulus in that regard.

6. Although the data did not reveal any clear patterns, the delay in the submission of documentation was believed to be a factor in the under-utilization of conference resources.

7. Clarification was sought and received from the Secretariat regarding the methodologies used and the data presented.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. The Committee on Conferences looked forward to receiving information on the consultations held with the Chairmen of bodies that had consistently utilized less than 75 per cent of their allocated resources for the last three sessions.

9. It agreed to adopt the experimental methodology on the understanding that the Secretariat would expand the information presented to include analyses of trends perceived and capacity utilization figures.

10. The Committee requested the Secretariat to spare no effort to comply with the six-week rule and to intensify interdepartmental consultations designed to improve performance in utilization and compliance indices.

11. It decided to raise the benchmark figure for utilization of conference-servicing resources to 80 per cent, pending further analysis of the expanded methodology.

12. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it should invite those bodies whose utilization factor is below the benchmark figure for three sessions to review and revise, if necessary, the amount of conference-servicing resources requested.